



# INFORMATION FOR ADVOCATES

## VICTIM SERVICES

AS AN ADVOCATE, VICTIMS MAY SEEK YOUR HELP IN REQUESTING ASSISTANCE FROM THE OAG. THE FOLLOWING FORMS ([WWW.TEXASATTORNEYGENERAL.GOV](http://WWW.TEXASATTORNEYGENERAL.GOV)) AND PUBLICATIONS ([TEXASATTORNEYGENERAL.GOV/CVS/CRIME-VICTIM-PUBLICATIONS](http://WWW.TEXASATTORNEYGENERAL.GOV/CVS/CRIME-VICTIM-PUBLICATIONS)) ARE LOCATED ON THE OAG WEBSITE.

- Crime Victims' Compensation Application Form (English)
- Crime Victims' Compensation Application Form (Spanish)
- Pseudonym Form Instructions
- Pseudonym Form for Victims of Family Violence
- Address Confidentiality Program brochure
- The Rights of Victims of Crime in Texas
- Victim Information and Notification

The OAG provides speakers with expertise in the services for victims and advocates offered by the OAG. To request a speaker, please contact us at [crimevictims@oag.texas.gov](mailto:crimevictims@oag.texas.gov).

## TRAINING

The OAG offers bimonthly comprehensive victim services training for professionals who work with victims of crime. The training is free of charge and provides information on how to ensure victims receive effective assistance in

accessing the Crime Victims' Compensation program, promotes and recognizes victims' rights, and provides instruction on the Address Confidentiality Program.

The OAG also offers an Advanced Track Workshop with an emphasis on the CVC awards process. This is considered an advanced course and is best suited for those advocates that provide detailed follow-up with victims on payments and who have received basic training. This is also suitable training for service providers to better understand billing requirements. Bill processing and benefit payments including: medical, funeral, loss of wages, loss of support, rent/relocation, and all other payment types and necessary documentation will be discussed.

## CRIME VICTIM SERVICES DIVISION BIENNIAL CONFERENCE

The OAG will host the biennial Crime Victim Services Conference in early 2019. The conference is still in the planning stages, and details will be coming soon and can be found on our website (<https://texasattorneygeneral.gov/agency/oag-conferences>).

## GRANTS

Additionally, the OAG awards non-profit organizations grants to help victims of family violence. In fiscal year 2016, the OAG awarded the first Domestic Violence High Risk Teams grants. These grants help develop and support teams that coordinate victim services efforts and increase safety for victims of family



violence by monitoring and containing offenders.

The OAG also provides two other grant programs related to providing direct services to family violence victims: Other Victim Assistance Grants and Victim Coordinator and Liaison Grants. In fiscal year 2016 grantees served 48,307 victims of family violence. In the first 9 months of fiscal year 2017, 21,045 victims of family violence have received assistance.

Grant opportunities are posted on the OAG website ([www.texasattorneygeneral.gov/cvs/grants-and-contracts](http://www.texasattorneygeneral.gov/cvs/grants-and-contracts)), the Texas Register ([www.sos.state.tx.us/texreg/index.shtml](http://www.sos.state.tx.us/texreg/index.shtml)), and with Texas eGrants ([www.texasonline.state.tx.us/tolapp/egrants/search.htm](http://www.texasonline.state.tx.us/tolapp/egrants/search.htm)). For additional questions, contact us via email at [OAG-Grants@oag.texas.gov](mailto:OAG-Grants@oag.texas.gov).

For more information on CVC and Grants, please see the CVC annual report ([www.texasattorneygeneral.gov/files/cvs/cvs\\_annual2016.pdf](http://www.texasattorneygeneral.gov/files/cvs/cvs_annual2016.pdf)).

## HELPING VICTIMS WITH CHILD SUPPORT

The attorney general's Child Support Division (CSD) recognizes that economic stability is critical to a survivor's journey to a life free of abuse. As a result, CSD has partnered with the Texas Council on Family Violence over the past decade to enhance the safety of child support services and increase Texans' awareness of the resources available to them. CSD and TCFV have jointly developed several resources designed to help advocates provide victims with the information needed to carefully assess the benefits and potential risks of pursuing child support and to safety plan around the process. To get started, explore the links below:

- [www.GetChildSupportSafely.org](http://www.GetChildSupportSafely.org)
- TCFV Trainings & Conferences ([www.tcfv.org/trainings-conferences](http://www.tcfv.org/trainings-conferences))
- To get the Child Support Safely Toolkit contact (800) 525-1978

## HELPFUL RESOURCES

Forms for Crime Victims Service (CVS)	<a href="http://www.texasattorneygeneral.gov/cvs/crime-victim-forms-applications">www.texasattorneygeneral.gov/cvs/crime-victim-forms-applications</a>
Publications for CVS	<a href="http://www.texasattorneygeneral.gov/cvs/crime-victim-publications">www.texasattorneygeneral.gov/cvs/crime-victim-publications</a>
Pseudonym Form for Victims of Family Violence	<a href="http://www.texasattorneygeneral.gov/cvs/rent-and-relocation">www.texasattorneygeneral.gov/cvs/rent-and-relocation</a>
Contact for CVS	<a href="mailto:crimevictims@oag.texas.gov">crimevictims@oag.texas.gov</a>
CVS Conference Information	<a href="https://texasattorneygeneral.gov/agency/oag-conferences">https://texasattorneygeneral.gov/agency/oag-conferences</a>
CVS Grant Opportunities	<a href="http://www.texasattorneygeneral.gov/cvs/grants-and-contracts">www.texasattorneygeneral.gov/cvs/grants-and-contracts</a>
Texas Register Grants	<a href="http://www.sos.state.tx.us/texreg/index.shtml">www.sos.state.tx.us/texreg/index.shtml</a>
Texas eGrants	<a href="http://www.texasonline.state.tx.us/tolapp/egrants/search.htm">www.texasonline.state.tx.us/tolapp/egrants/search.htm</a>
Contact for Texas Grants	<a href="mailto:www.oag-grants@oag.texas.gov">www.oag-grants@oag.texas.gov</a>
CVC Annual Report	<a href="http://www.texasattorneygeneral.gov/files/cvs/cvs_annual2016.pdf">www.texasattorneygeneral.gov/files/cvs/cvs_annual2016.pdf</a>
Get Child Support Safely	<a href="http://www.getchildsupportsafely.org">www.getchildsupportsafely.org</a>
Texas Council on Family Violence Trainings & Conferences	<a href="http://www.tcfv.org/trainings-conferences">www.tcfv.org/trainings-conferences</a>
Child Support Safely Toolkit Contact	(800) 525-1978



# FAMILY VIOLENCE FACTS

## WHAT IS FAMILY VIOLENCE?

The term family violence means violence that occurs between family members, within households, or between dating partners.

- "Family" means people related by blood or marriage, former spouses, people who parent the same child, a foster child and foster parent.
- "Household" means people living together in the same house, even if they are not related.
- "Dating violence" refers to people in an ongoing romantic or intimate relationship.

Under Texas law, family violence occurs when one member of a family or household acts in a way towards another member of the family or household that is intended to result in physical harm, assault, or sexual assault. Threats of physical harm, assault, or sexual assault by one member of the family or household also meet the definition of family violence.<sup>i</sup>

## HOW PREVALENT IS FAMILY VIOLENCE IN TEXAS?

According to the Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS), 194,872 family violence incidents were reported to law enforcement in 2015. Additionally, an unknown number of incidents were not reported to law enforcement. The reported incidents produced 211,301 victims of family violence.<sup>ii</sup>

The Texas Council on Family Violence estimates 1 in 3 Texans will be a victim of family violence during their lifetime.<sup>iii</sup>

## WHO ARE THE VICTIMS OF FAMILY VIOLENCE?

Anyone can become a victim of family violence. However, according to DPS, women make up 72% of victims.<sup>iv</sup> In 2015, 158 women were killed by an intimate partner, or one every 2.3 days.<sup>v</sup> Family violence also mostly affects people between 20 and 40 years of age, although it can affect people of any age.<sup>vi</sup>

Family violence also affects people who may not be the main target of the offender. For example, children often witness family violence. Of the 158 Texas women who were killed by an intimate partner in 2015, 108 were mothers. In total, 281 Texans lost their mothers to intimate partner violence in 2015.<sup>vii</sup>

## WHAT ARE THE EFFECTS OF FAMILY VIOLENCE ON VICTIMS?

Physical injuries are not the only effects of family violence. Many victims suffer from depression, anxiety, and low self-esteem. Additionally, victims may attempt to cope by using drugs or alcohol.<sup>viii</sup> Victims may also suffer economically as violence or the threat of violence causes them to miss work or lose jobs.<sup>ix</sup>

Children who witness or are a victim of family violence respond in different ways. Some experience changes in their emotions and behavior such as increased anger or fear and an inability to sleep. Additionally, child victims may suffer long-term emotional effects, seek out drugs or alcohol, or develop unhealthy relationships.<sup>x</sup> Other additional long-term effects include increased risk of suicide, and reduced social and



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academic skills.<sup>xi</sup>

## RESOURCES

<sup>i</sup> [http://www.statutes.legis.state.tx.us/Docs/FA/htm/FA\\_71.htm](http://www.statutes.legis.state.tx.us/Docs/FA/htm/FA_71.htm)

<sup>ii</sup> <http://www.dps.texas.gov/crimereports/15/citCh5.pdf>

<sup>iii</sup> <http://tcfv.org/resource-center/learn-the-facts/>

<sup>iv</sup> <http://www.dps.texas.gov/crimereports/15/citCh5.pdf>, pg. 37.

<sup>v</sup> [http://2mg7g749lu2112sis323nkkn.wpengine.netdna-cdn.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/10/2015\\_HTV\\_Report\\_web.pdf](http://2mg7g749lu2112sis323nkkn.wpengine.netdna-cdn.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/10/2015_HTV_Report_web.pdf), pg. 3.

<sup>vi</sup> DPS citation from above.

<sup>vii</sup> [http://2mg7g749lu2112sis323nkkn.wpengine.netdna-cdn.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/10/2015\\_HTV\\_Report\\_web.pdf](http://2mg7g749lu2112sis323nkkn.wpengine.netdna-cdn.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/10/2015_HTV_Report_web.pdf), pg. 12.

<sup>viii</sup> <https://www.womenshealth.gov/violence-against-women/mental-health-effects-of-violence/>

<sup>ix</sup> <http://ncadv.org/learn-more/statistics>

<sup>x</sup> [http://www.nctsn.org/sites/default/files/assets/pdfs/childrenanddv\\_factsheet\\_1.pdf](http://www.nctsn.org/sites/default/files/assets/pdfs/childrenanddv_factsheet_1.pdf)

<sup>xi</sup> [http://vawnet.org/sites/default/files/materials/files/2016-09/NRCDDV\\_TAG-ACEDV-April2016.pdf](http://vawnet.org/sites/default/files/materials/files/2016-09/NRCDDV_TAG-ACEDV-April2016.pdf), pg. 1

<sup>xii</sup> <http://bit.ly/2xGf5ji>